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**DATE:** July 7, 2004  
**FILE NO:** ROC920010064US1  
**TO:** Examiner Andrew Fischer  
**FAX NO:** 703/872-9306  
**COMPANY:** USPTO  
**FROM:** Gero G. McClellan  
**PAGE(S) with cover:** 14  
**ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED April 15, 2004**

**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 09/848,573  
**FILING DATE:** May 3, 2001  
**INVENTOR:** Bates et al.  
**EXAMINER:** Andrew Fischer  
**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3672  
**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 6820

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE**

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PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010064US1

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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JUL 07 2004**In re Application of:  
Bates et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,573

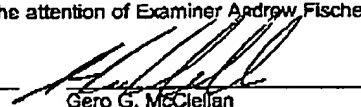
Confirmation No.: 6829

Filed: May 3, 2001

For: Systems and Methods for  
Operating Vending Machines§  
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Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Fischer, A.

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450CERTIFICATE OF FAX  
37 CFR 1.8I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number  
703/872-9306 to the attention of Examiner Andrew Fischer on  
the date below:July 7, 2004  
Date  
Gero G. McClellan

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 15, 2004**

In response to the Office Action dated April 15, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 15, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

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